

NOES!—7.

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| 1. Mr. K. I. Joseph. | 5. Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai. |
| 2. „ N. K. Krishna Pillai. | 6. „ G. Raman Menon. |
| 3. „ K. P. Nilakanta Pillai. | 7. „ Kurandipallil R. Raman |
| 4. „ A. K. Pillai. | Pillai. |

NEUTRALS—Nil.

The motion was declared carried.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-44 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-45 P. M.

DEMAND VI—FOREST.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,500 under Demand VI—Forests. This amount is required to continue the special staff sanctioned for the disposal of *kudivila* on Royal trees. The House is already aware that during the year 1100 seven additional clerks were appointed for the speedy disposal of *kudivila* claims which had accumulated to the extent of 2½ lakhs of rupees. During the latter part of 1101 and during 1102 the staff was able to settle and dispose of claims to an amount of Rs. 1,20,000. It is approximately estimated that there is still an amount of rupees one lakh, sixty thousand to be paid. It is absolutely necessary therefore that this staff should be continued for this year and for that a provision of Rs. 1,500 is wanted.

The motion was carried.

DEMAND VIII—REGISTRATION.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 10,338 under Demand VIII—Registration for opening 8 additional temporary Sub-Registry offices. The offices are to be located at (1) Tonnakkal, (2) Vellanad, (3) Kotamangalam, (4) Varkala, (5) Pattanamtitta, (6) Cheppad, (7) Pantalamp and (8) Karunagapalli. The Director of Registration has reported that the number of documents to be registered in the various offices in the State is showing an enormous increase. The state of affairs is not new to this year. It was also seen last year. And as a result Government sanctioned last year the opening of five new Sub-Registry offices temporarily. These offices were at Balaramapuram, Tevalakara, Ranni, Kidangur and Ramapuram. They are being continued this year. Notwithstanding this, it is seen that the work continues to increase and therefore the Director has proposed the opening of new offices to give relief to those offices where the work is beyond the capacity of one Sub-Registrar to manage.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether these offices are temporary or permanent?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Temporary for the rest of the year. The office at Vellanad is to give relief to the two offices at Neduvangad and Maranallur. The number of documents in these two offices in 1102 was about 8,000 and 6,000 respectively. It is obvious that there should be relief for these two offices. The pakuthies of Vellanad, Arianad, Perungulam, Ozhamalakkal, Mannukara from Neduvangad Principal office, and Kulathummel from the Maranallur office, are proposed to be attached to the new sub-district. It is not possible to attach these pakuthies to any adjoining offices to give relief to the above two offices. Therefore the new office at Vellanad is necessary.

The next is Tonnakkal. This is to give relief to the Kazhakuttam and Attingal Sub-Registry offices. There is scope, in fact there is urgent need, to open an extra office at Tonnakkal to give relief to these two offices.

The third is at Varkala. This is opened partly to give relief to Navaikulam and Chirayinkil offices and partly to afford facilities to the people of Madavur pakuthi who have been complaining that they have at present to go to Chatayamangalam for registering the documents. This is very inconvenient to them. If an office is opened at Varkala, that inconvenience will be removed.

The next is at Karunagapalli. This is proposed to give relief to the two adjacent offices at Chavara and Karunagapalli. The number of documents for registration in 1102 was 6,600 at Chavara and 7,000 at Karunagapalli. So an additional office at Karunagapalli is urgently called for.

Similarly for Cheppad. This is to give relief to Kayankulam and Kartikapalli Sub-Registry offices where the number of documents was above 6,600. The adjacent office at Mavelikara is also very heavy, having had 6,300 documents in 1102. So no redistribution of jurisdiction will give relief to these offices.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil cum Devicolum*): On an average what is the number of documents that a Sub-Registrar can dispose of?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is said that a Sub-Registrar cannot do more than 4,500 documents in a year.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil cum Devicolum*): In a day?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member can calculate that from the figure I had given.

Next we come to Pantalam. This is to give relief to the offices at Chengannur and Kunnattur. The number of documents for registration at Chengannur was about 6,650 in 1102 and at Kunnattur it was 6,000. Some relief was given to the Kunnattur office by attaching the Kunnattur pakuthi to Sastancotta. But that has not given sufficient relief. So if an office is opened at Pantalam it will give relief to these two offices. Then we come to the Pattanamtitta additional office. It is intended to give relief to the Pattanamtitta office. A temporary office was opened at Ranni last year and in the short period

[Mr. K. George.]

of 9 months in 1102 three thousand and five hundred documents were registered at Ranni. In spite of the opening of this office at Ranni, the number of documents for registration at Pattanamtitta was 7,100 in 1102. It is therefore proposed to open an additional office at Pattanamtitta.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Does he know the average number of documents registered in a Sub-Registry office in British India?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

Lastly, we come to Kotamangalam. The office there is to give relief to the Muvattupuzha Sub-Registry office. The number of documents registered in the Muvattupuzha office in 1102 was 6,400. Owing to the repeated complaints of the Arakuzha pakuthi people, that pakuthi has been re-transferred to Muvattupuzha. This will raise the number of documents to be registered in Muvattupuzha. Therefore a new office at Kotamangalam is proposed to be opened to give convenience to the people of the northern pakuthies of the taluk and to relieve the congestion in the Muvattupuzha office. I hope that the House will readily sanction the grant.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does the Chief Secretary say that the Sub-Registry offices in South Travancore in the taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram, Kalkulam and Vilavankod do not do more than 4,500 documents a year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We do not immediately go in for a Sub-Registry office because it has 4,501 documents. The places I have mentioned are in need of relief. There are nearly 6,500 documents registered.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I am speaking of the principle of it. Does the member say that the Government will open a new office if there are more than 4,500 documents registered in a year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A Sub-Registrar who is very active and capable may be able to do more than that. But when it goes beyond 6,000 it is evidently impossible to do so.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Were not complaints made by the people of Kalkulam and Vilavankod?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not at present able to say that. But Government think that there is need for urgent relief in the eight offices I have mentioned.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): In view of the passing of the Nanjinad Vellala Regulation, will the Government think that there is necessity for more offices in South Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It may be necessary. But at present it is not urgent; otherwise the Director would have made a recommendation about that. We must wait for the recommendation of the Head of the Department.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Torvala*): Will the Government call for it?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not think Government should call for proposals for additional expenditure.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Torvala*): Will the Government see whether complaints were made.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is this only a temporary arrangement?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is it on account of the number of documents registered because of the Nair and Ezhava Regulations?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not mainly due to that. It is no doubt the result of the operation of the Regulation also. When the tarwads are partitioned it necessarily means that there will be a larger general increase of documents registered.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member know that the centres that have asked for additional Sub-Registry offices are Nair and Ezhava centres? That largely explains why South Travancore has not come in here.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): കൊല്ലം താലൂക്കിൽ പെരിനാട്ടുപകുതിയിൽ വളരെ നാളായിട്ട് ഒരു സബ് രജിസ്റ്റാർ ഓഫീസ് വേണമെന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതായിട്ട് അറിയാമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot hear, Sir.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): അവിടെ സബ് രജിസ്റ്റാർ ഓഫീസ് ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ എന്നു ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): After a careful investigation, if there is necessity, the Government will open a Sub-Registry office. People may like to have a Sub-Registry office at every door but it is not possible to provide that.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to the latest publication of the Electoral Rolls, there is some grievance and I do not know whether that comes under this because the Department of Registration also contributes something towards the late disposal of the Pokkuvaravu cases. Will I be in order if I speak about that under this?

PRESIDENT: No, no, it is hardly relevant.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I thought I would be able to bring it to the notice of the House if a demand is made under Land Revenue. Registration also is equally important for that matter,

PRESIDENT : I do not know what amount of ingenuity will be required to link up the two.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (Shertallai) : Is the member aware that the people of Perinad have petitioned to Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (Chief Secretary to Government) : I am not at present able to answer him as I have not got the records with me now.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (Shertallai) : Will the Member take it from me that the people of Perinad have already petitioned to Government asking to open a Sub-Registry office there? I wish to know whether the Government will be pleased to make an enquiry whether there is a real necessity to establish a Sub-Registry office there.

MR. K. GEORGE (Chief Secretary to Government) : I accept the information given by the Member on that matter. But I would point out to the Member that it is not correct on the part of Government to invite proposals for additional expenditure in a case such as this.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (Shertallai) : I am not actually inviting additional expenditure. A petition has already been given stating their grievances and I only wish to know whether the Government will make an enquiry into that matter.

MR. K. GEORGE (Chief Secretary to Government) : Certainly, that petition will go to the Director of Registration for report.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (Tovala) : Am I to understand that the demand is made not because the people wanted a Sub-Registry office, but because the Department is over-worked.

MR. K. GEORGE (Chief Secretary to Government) : The Department is over-worked and the people feel the offices are not sufficient and are put to much difficulty. It is not the sole reason, but the main reason is that the work in the offices cannot get on and it is to relieve that congestion that these new temporary offices are being opened.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (Tovala) : Is it only due to the congestion of work that these offices are being opened?

MR. K. GEORGE (Chief Secretary to Government) : Yes. I was explaining it at great length.

MR. A. J. JOHN (Vaikam) : Was there not some inconvenience on account of the redistribution of the various Sub-Registry offices?

MR. K. GEORGE (Chief Secretary to Government) : I think that it has been remedied already and a notification is being issued, or has already been issued regarding that.

MR. A. J. JOHN (Vaikam) : Has the notification been issued?

MR. K. GEORGE (Chief Secretary to Government) : I am not sure.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha) : എത്ര സബ്‌രജിസ്റ്റാർ കളക്ടറി പുത്തനായിട്ടു തുറക്കാൻ പോകുന്നു? എത്ര സബ്‌രജിസ്റ്റാറുമാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): എട്ടു സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാർമാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): കൂടുതലായിട്ട് എത്രപേർ വേണ്ടിവരും?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): എട്ടു സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാർമാരും ൪൦ ഹുമസ്റ്റാക്കളും വേണം.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): ഈ നിയമനം ഇപ്പോൾ രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ പ്രാതിനിധ്യം കുറഞ്ഞ വസ്തുതയിൽനിന്നും നടത്തുമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): അത് ആലോചിക്കേണ്ട കാര്യമാണ്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി യാതൊന്നും ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടില്ലേ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): മിക്കവാറും ഈ നിയമനങ്ങളെല്ലാം സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാറുടെ നിയമനം ഒഴിച്ചു രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഡയറക്ടറാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): ആരാകുന്നു അതിൽ പ്രാതിനിധ്യം കുറഞ്ഞ വസ്തുതകളെക്കൊണ്ടു കൂടുതൽ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): ആലോചിക്കാം.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): ഭൂരിപക്ഷവും അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യാനാണോ ശ്രമമെടുക്കേണ്ടതെന്ന്?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): അങ്ങിനെ ഒന്നും നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. കൗൺസിലിൽ പാസായതിനുശേഷമാണല്ലോ നിശ്ചയിക്കേണ്ടത്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): ഇപ്പോൾ യാതൊന്നും ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടില്ലേ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ യാതൊന്നും ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടില്ല.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): മറ്റേതെങ്കിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): ഇപ്പോൾ ആലോചിക്കുന്ന വിഷയം അതല്ലല്ലോ.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamthitta*): പത്തനംതിട്ടയിൽ നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്ന സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാർ ഓഫീസ് കോന്നിയിലേക്ക് മാറ്റുന്നത് സൗകര്യമാണെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): ലോക്കേഷനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ശരിയായിട്ടു ആലോചിച്ചു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു നേതകത്വമായസ്ഥലത്തു സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനു തീരുമാനിച്ചുകൊള്ളാമെന്നാണ് ഡയറക്ടർ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിലേക്കു എഴുതി അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I beg permission to move a token motion upon this.

PRESIDENT: It is not possible.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Then I oppose the motion, just to press upon the attention of Government the necessity for attending to certain things in regard to the opening of new Sub-Registry Offices. In the first place the Government should consider whether it is not practicable to appoint Honorary Registrars. In civilised countries that is being done. Here in the course of the last three years or so many new appointments have been created by the Government. The reason that it has been done is that there has been a good balance in hand after meeting the expenditure. The question is whether this balance should not be spent for more necessary purposes. The increase in the number of Government servants out of all proportion to the condition of the country calls for serious thought and so the Government should consider whether a further increase in the appointments of Sub-Registrars and other Government servants cannot be avoided by appointing honorary officers as in other civilised countries.

Another point to be considered in this connection is that much inconvenience was caused to a great many of the people in different parts of the country in connection with the opening of new Sub-Registry offices, that is, by the regrouping of the jurisdictions. In former days for example the Vallikunnam Pakuthi was under the jurisdiction of the Krishnapuram Sub-Registrar's office but when a new grouping of jurisdictions was effected by the opening of some new Sub-Registrar's offices it was transferred to Nuranad and a very large portion of the people were put to great difficulty by that transfer because they had to travel a greater distance than before.

As regards the proposal to have a Sub-Registrar's office at Pantalam there also I learn that people of Thatta have complained that their jurisdiction should not be changed to Pantalam in preference to Kunnattur.

In this connection, it is sometimes said that if we enquire into the conveniences of the people as to how the jurisdiction is to be fixed, it may not be possible to arrive at any conclusion. I do not agree to that. The Government should enquire into the convenience of the people before they change the jurisdiction of the various Sub-Registry offices. That is the second point I have to bring to the notice of the Government.

Another point is that there has been a very general complaint in this House about the heart-burning and loss caused to the people by the malpractices on the part of many Sub-Registrars. It may happen that by the increase in the number of Sub-Registrar's offices the people might

have more persons to complain about. So the Government should redeem the promise made last time that they will do the needful for remedying the irregularities and corruption on the part of the subordinates of the Registration Department. With the object of pressing upon the Government these points, I beg to oppose the motion.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാറുടെ ജോലിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഒരു വിവരം രാമൻ മേനോൻ പറഞ്ഞു. ആധാരങ്ങളെ സാക്ഷിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിന് യാതൊരു പ്രയാസവുമില്ല. എന്നാൽ ആഫീസിൽ കൂടുതലായി രജിസ്റ്റർ ആക്കുന്ന ആധാരങ്ങളെ എല്ലാം ക്ലിപ്തമായത് തിരികെ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് നിവർത്തിയില്ലാതെ വരുന്നു. നൂറു ആധാരം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് യാതൊരു പ്രയാസവുമില്ല. ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ക്ലാർക്കന്മാർ അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അതിനാൽ കൂടുതൽ രജിസ്ട്രാറന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ക്ലാർക്കന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചാൽ ജോലി എളുപ്പം തീർക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതിനാൽ കൂടുതലായി സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാറന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, Mr. Raman Menon has raised a few points which call for a reply. His first objection was to the creation of additional posts. He wants to try an experiment by appointing honorary Sub-Registrars and I would leave it to the House to consider whether such appointment would be appreciated by the public. I certainly do not think that it would be appreciated.

As regards the jurisdiction of the Sub-Registrar's offices, Mr. Raman Menon's complaint was that when we last created a few additional offices there was a general redistribution of the jurisdiction of the various offices. That was inevitable. When new offices are created, there will be change of jurisdiction and in doing so it is possible that some hardship is caused to some people. But, those grievances have been remedied by a subsequent rearrangement of the jurisdictions more or less on the lines of what they were before.

As regards consulting of the wishes of the people, there is no particular objection to that; but, as Mr. Raman Menon himself hinted, it is possible that it may make the position of the Director of Registration very difficult as he cannot oblige everybody. If the people of one pakuthi desire a Sub-Registry office in that pakuthi, there will be others who may desire to have it elsewhere and it may be difficult to oblige all the parties. As I said already, the Director has promised to go into the question of the jurisdiction of these offices and to fix up the locations of each in such a way as to cause as little inconvenience as possible to the people concerned.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Has the Government considered the question of facilitating the registration of documents at the residences of the executants?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : There are certain rules under which that is being done now.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it possible to have further facilities in that direction and has Government considered that question?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They have not yet considered it. I think it arose in the last budget discussion and action will be taken on the lines of the discussion.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): ആണ്ടിൽ ൪ ൫ ൦ ൦ ആധാരത്തിൽ കറവായിട്ട് ജോലിയുള്ള സബ്‌രജിസ്ട്രാർ കച്ചേരികൾ ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There may be a few of which I have not got the list. But if on that account we are not going to sanction these offices what will happen is the calamity which Mr. Raman Menon was just referring to. It may necessitate a wholesale redistribution of the various Sub-Registry offices.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): അധികാരാതൃത്വം മാറിപരിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം കൂടുതൽ സബ്‌രജിസ്ട്രാർകച്ചേരി ഇല്ലാതെ കഴിക്കാമോ എന്നു ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is just the point that I was saying. I have not got sufficient information to say whether there are any offices where the number of documents registered is less than 4,500. But there may be a few and if on that account we do not open these additional offices it will mean a redistribution of the jurisdiction of the existing offices causing a great deal of inconvenience to the people. By the opening of these new temporary offices, that can be avoided.

The next objection of Mr. Raman Menon was about the location of the Pantalam Sub-Registrar's office. There was some complaint about it and Mr. Venkata Row has reported that the inconvenience complained of may be removed by locating the office at a suitable place in Pantalam which will be convenient to all parties. Anyhow, he will do the needful in the best manner possible. It may not be quite possible to satisfy the requirements of all people; but, as far as possible, he will do it.

I need not say anything about the question of malpractice, as it was discussed thread bare only very recently.

Then Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai raised the question whether the congestion of work in the Sub-Registry offices could not be avoided by the appointment of additional clerks. That point was considered by the Director and he has reported that in his estimation it is not possible for any Sub-Registrar to endorse on as many as six thousand documents in a year. The question whether clerical assistance will relieve the congestion was considered by him and as a result he has suggested the appointment of 18 additional clerks for certain offices where there is congestion on that score. Unfortunately, it was not possible for the Government to consider that question fully and come to this House for a

additional grant but I expect we will have to come at the next Session. What I mean is that when the question was considered, it was thought impossible by the strengthening the offices by a few clerks to remove the present congestion, as the Sub-Registrar who has to affix signature on every page of every document also requires urgent relief.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Is there any more Sub-Registry offices having more than six thousand documents or so?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Apparently not, because the Director has not brought that to the notice of Government.

The demand was put to the vote of the House and carried.

DEMAND XIV—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 1,800 under Demand XIV—Agriculture and Fisheries. I think it is well that I explain briefly the necessity for this grant so that my friends on the other side of the House may save the trouble of making long speeches on hypothetical grounds. The purpose of this grant is to make an experiment to solve the problem of ploughing punja lands. The practical punja cultivators know the difficulties they experience in ploughing their lands. They also know that if these lands are ploughed efficiently, they will be able to raise a successful crop. Probably, most members of the House are aware that the punja lands are submerged under water for nearly 8 months of the year and that in the month of Tulam or Vrischikam the water is bailed out, the seed is sown and the crop is harvested by the end of Minam or Medam. The only time when they could plough the lands dry is just after the harvest and before the monsoon breaks out and this period is not sufficient for the efficient ploughing of all the lands. Moreover there may be occasional showers during this period and then, it becomes practically impossible to plough the lands either with cattle or even with any mechanical plough. So the problem has been troubling the cultivators and with a view to solve this problem the Government announced a reward of Rs. 500 for a successful design of a motor plough which could be used when lands were under water. A number of competing designs were sent in and the Government appointed a Committee consisting of Officials and Non-officials to examine these designs and to select the best out of them for the award of the prize. The Committee examined all the designs and found that two of them were nearly feasible and the rest they rejected because there were many defects in them. The two designs which the Committee approved of were submitted to Government with the report that before they could express an opinion definitely whether either of them would be a practical success it would be necessary to construct working models and test them.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Torvala*): May I know whether there were any technical experts in the Committee?